



Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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Jim Doyle
Governor

Frank J. Busalacchi
Secretary

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May 11, 2005

Norman Mineta, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
400 7th Street S. W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Mineta:

I am writing to request your approval for the continuation of Skyway Airlines as the Essential Air Service provider at Ironwood, Michigan. Ironwood is an airport located in the upper peninsula of Michigan, just across the northern border of Wisconsin and provides the only air carrier service in this sparsely populated large geographic region.

In June of 2002, we wrote to you about the problems citizens of Wisconsin and Michigan were experiencing with the previous provider. Service was poor and expensive. We urged your consideration of Skyway Airlines (dba Midwest Connect) because Skyway proposed to provide better service at a lower cost, "hubbing" through Midwest Airlines at Milwaukee.

I am very pleased to report that Skyways has made good on their pledge and that service is greatly improved. We have reviewed the most recent (through March, 2005) Ironwood enplanement data and found that enplanements have tripled since Skyway Airlines took over. Enplanements in January 2002 were 111, but have climbed to 306 in January 2005. Enplanements also tripled the 2002 levels for February and March of 2005.

The Airport's Board of Commissioners was unanimous in voting to request that you continue the Skyway's Airlines service. The Commission reports that the local residents enthusiastically support the service. That observation is clearly supported by the enplanement numbers. Skyways also proposed continuation of their service at the lowest federal subsidy of all the competing proposers. I request that you act favorably on the Skyways proposal to continue its service to the people of northern Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank J. Busalacchi".

Frank J. Busalacchi
Secretary

cc: Governor Jim Doyle
Commissioner Gene Cisewski